Abstract of the Disclosure

A system for expanding and generalizing aspects of an autoharp and making these functionalities beneficially available on other instruments. Strumpads (abstracting string arrays) comprising arrays of isolated touch switches are used to generate MIDI note events according to interpretations of an active mapping. The active mapping may be determined by stored program control selected from chord buttons or foot switches, or may be determined by keys on a music keyboard. The volume of individual strings within actual string arrays may be mechanically or electronically controlled by chord buttons or a music keyboard, and the electronic control can also be made with foot switches or incoming MIDI control signals. Keyboard keys may be provided with key-travel sensors and key-surface sensors for continuously controlling volumes and octave mixings of associated strings.